

the three fold lines and the two further fold lines defining the sixteen equal areas,

the panels being folded with respect to the three fold lines so as to form an M shape when viewed from an end of the tissue.

--31. (new) An absorbent tissue packet, comprising:

a tissue stack; and

a wrapper covering all faces of the tissue stack,

the wrapper and tissue stack having a square front face and a square rear face,

each tissue of the tissue having three fold lines defining four panels of approximately equal width, and two further fold lines orthogonal to the three fold lines,

the three fold lines and the two further fold lines defining sixteen equal areas,

the panels being folded with respect to the three fold lines to form an M shaped end view.--

REMARKS

The application has been amended so as to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The specification has been amended to add section headings.

A replacement Abstract is provided.

It is noted that the Official Action withdrew claims 10-15 from further consideration.

The Official Action rejected claims 1-9 under §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

The originally-filed claims have been canceled and replaced with new claims drafted so as to be proper as to form and to remedy the stated basis of rejection.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejection are respectfully requested.

The Official Action rejected claims 1 and 6-9 under §103 as obvious over the disclosed prior art of Figures 1-2, together with REINHEIMER et al. 5,184,725, or WEWERS 5,244,025; and the same claims over FOCKE et al. 5,018,625, or RUGENSTEIN et al. 4,460,088 in view of REINHEIMER et al.

The Official Action rejected claims 2-4 as obvious over either of these sets as applied to claim 1, in further view of WILLIAMS 3,129,811.

The new independent claims patentably recite the present invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending obviousness rejections are solicited and allowance of all the pending claims are requested.

Note that none of the applied references teaches tissues folded in the manner recited, which reference to Figures

4-9, and in particular to Figures 5-6 of the present specification. See that the invention discloses that each tissue of the tissue stack is folded in a square of 16 layers of absorbent paper (16 square areas). This is shown by Figure 9 of the application.

As shown by Figures 4-6 of the application, each tissue has three fold lines defining four panels of approximately equal width, wherein the directions of folding of the panels with respect to the outer fold lines (54, 58) is mutually opposing. See Figure 6. Independent claim 30 recites this folded arrangement as the panels being folded with respect to the three fold lines so as to form an M shape when viewed from an end of the tissue. Claim 31 recites the folded structure as the panels being folded with respect to the three fold lines to form an M-shaped end view.

None of the references disclose such a folded tissue.

As to WILLIAMS, see Figure 3 while reading column 3, line 70 through column 4, line 90. Therein it is disclosed that the sheet is folded, in a first fold along line 16 so as to form two equal halves. This sheet is then folded along overlying lines 17, in a second fold, to provide four equal sections folded upon each other. Note that these sections do not form the recited M-shaped end view. WILLIAMS then discloses the thus-folded tissue being a third time along line 14 and then a final

fourth time along fold lines 15. Thus, although WILLIAMS may teach a tissue being folded into 16 squares, the folded tissue does not have the structure recited by the presently pending independent claims.

Accordingly, the obviousness rejections should be withdrawn.

The dependent claims are believed to be allowable at least for depending from an allowable independent claim.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the abstract by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

By



Roland E. Long, Jr.
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 41,949
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone: 521-2297

January 31, 2003

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The Abstract of the Disclosure was amended as follows:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

["Packet of tissues"]

--[The invention relates to a] A packet [(20)] of stacked absorbent paper tissues [(64) of the type which comprises a sheet of flexible material], such as a plastic wrapping sheet [(21) which comprises] includes an opening [means] part allowing a region to be uncovered for grasping at least one tissue [(64)] so as to extract it individually from the wrapper [(21)], [and of the type which is of] with a parallelepipedal overall shape defined by a height [(H)], a width [(L)] and a thickness [(E)], [characterized in that] the height [(H)] and the width [(L) are] being equal so that the packet [(20)] has square front [(22)] and rear [(24)] frontal faces.

[Figure 3.]--